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SPARTAN DAILY

VOLUME 123, NUMBER 14

WWW.THESPARTANDAILY.COM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

Bill Cosby speaks at Event Center

Comedian visits SJSU to promote
Read-2-Lead Football Classic

By Ken Lotich
Daily Managing Editor

A conversation was slated to occur between Bill Cosby and San Jose State University football head coach Fitz Hill Thursday night, but it ended up turning into "The Cosby Show."

"The Cos" was in full effect Thursday night, as ticket holders of Saturday's Read-2-Lead Football Classic flocked to the SJSU Event Center for "A Conversation with Cosby."

A near-capacity crowd was on hand to see

the actor, entertainer and comedian tell stories about his life, and express his opinions about public schools, politics and the promotion of literacy.

Cosby managed to keep the audience in his hands the entire time — laughter occurred when he told a joke, and silence was felt when he touched upon a more serious subject.

Newly appointed SJSU interim President Don Kassing took the podium and addressed the audience to begin the evening.

"As interim president, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to a great man, Dr. Bill Cosby,"

Kassing said.

Kassing thanked Hill for his "passion for literacy," which Kassing said resulted in Cosby's visit.

Kassing then introduced the mediator for the event, Kevin Brown, host of KBLX 102.9's morning show, titled "The Kevin Brown Show."

Brown said he was proud to be the moderator for the evening and thanked Cosby and Hill for their efforts to promote literacy.

Brown then introduced Hill to the crowd.

Hill said that professional sports have enormous drawing power, and thus the potential to incorporate other entities, such as education.

"The purpose of the 'Read-2-Lead' is to take the platform of sports and use it to promote academics, literature and education," Hill

said.

Hill said his players would go with Morgan State University football players to various elementary schools near campus today to read to young students.

Brown then introduced Cosby to the audience.

Cosby, decked out in an SJSU sweatshirt, sweat pants and cap, wore sunglasses and sandals with white socks.

He received a standing ovation from the audience.

"Thank you for coming here tonight," Brown said.

"Well, I had nothing better to do," Cosby



COSBY

joked.

Cosby explained his reasons for coming to SJSU.

"I was some place ... minding my own business," Cosby said. "Somebody told me 'Hill wants to see you.' He brought his wife, too, so I'd think he was a nice guy or something."

Cosby said today's athletes have a lot more to look forward to — unlike his college's football team.

"Our team was sad — we were, like, 0 ... and ... 27 or something ... and that was just in one season," Cosby said. "We were, like, Division 12, and none of our helmets matched. Nobody would cut the grass either. So when we'd bend over we couldn't see each other."

Cosby emphasized that in order for stu-

see COSBY, page 4

Suspected gas leak a false alarm

By John Myers
Daily A&E Editor

A light odor on the sixth floor of Duncan Hall at San Jose State University prompted a call to the San Jose Fire Department Thursday night, a fire official said.

"Someone probably smelled something strange and panicked because they were in a (chemistry) area," said Dave Salazar, a captain with Engine 3B of the fire department.

The chemistry laboratories are on the sixth floor, where the odor was first thought to exist.

After an investigation by the Hazardous Incident Team using gas-sniffing devices yielded no leaks, firefighters declared the building to be safe.

Officials said the building had been evacuated, but people continued to trickle out during the incident's near-one-hour duration.

Captain Salazar said his firefighters waited for the Hazardous Incident Team, because firefighters "can't just go up there. We have to wait for the proper guys," he said.

The incident team would be more properly equipped and trained to handle any gas leaks, he said.

The building has been evacuated in the past, an SJSU faculty member said.

"We were evacuated for the earthquake in '89 ... and for odors in the (chemistry) wing," said Sally Veregge, chair of the SJSU biological sciences department. Veregge said she had returned to the building to get some paperwork after attending an on-campus event.



Tomomi Tsuda / Daily Staff

Dave Salazar, left, and Kyle Carter, right, from San Jose Fire Department look for a gas leak around 10 p.m. Thursday outside Duncan Hall at San Jose State University. Gas-sniffing devices detected no leaks, and firefighters declared the building to be safe.

Indian novelist captivates audience

By Ruth C. Wamuyi
Daily Staff Writer

With a strike of the gavel, the audience that came to listen to Indian author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni was ushered into a world of self-effacing humor and dream interpretation.

Divakaruni tickled the audience by saying her mother dreamed of a snake before she was born and knew she would get a daughter.

"Then the snake bit her and she knew she would get a daughter like me," she said.

Divakaruni talked about her latest novel, "Queen of Dreams," Thursday at a lecture held at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library.

"An Indian Author Speaks Out" attracted 150 to 200 people, said Mohan K. Sood, a senior fellow at the San Jose State University global studies and international and extended studies departments.

The audience had to be moved to a bigger room, and even then it was standing

see AUTHOR, page 3

Campus response to Friday classes mixed

By Kevin Yuen
Daily Staff Writer

Thank God, it's ... Thursday?
"Thursday is the new Friday," said Raymond Fernando, a sophomore television, radio, film and theatre major, referring to the weekly three-day weekend for many students.

Since seemingly the beginning of time, San Jose State University students have struggled with the enigma of Friday classes: Should they or should they not be taken?

Given the choice, most students would not, said Haani Jafri, a senior majoring in physics.

"Of course, given the choice, I would not take them," said Jafri, who is taking two classes on Friday: electrodynamics and quantum mechanics. "But with my major, I have to take Friday classes or else I wouldn't be able to graduate."

Other students agree with Jafri's sentiment.

"I've never had a semester with Fridays off) because I'm a biology

major," said Ehong Chao, a sophomore majoring in microbiology, "but I'd like to have one."

On Fridays, Chao attends two lectures, Chinese and chemistry.

"Chemistry is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, so if I miss one class that's one-third of the class," he said. "Chinese meets every day, but it's hard, so I have to show up. I really wouldn't (be here otherwise)."

Ernesto Fong, a freshman majoring in computer engineering, takes human understanding and development Friday mornings. He lives in the dorms, but returns to his hometown of San Francisco during the weekends.

"(Friday classes are) a waste of my time," Fong said. "I could go home earlier in the afternoon."

Freshman Johnny Lee, an electrical engineering major, is also in Fong's Friday morning class.

"I'm used to Friday classes from high school," Lee said, "but it would

see FRIDAY, page 3

Marching bands rally support for weekend game

By Janet Pak
Daily Senior Staff Writer

San Jose State University's football team got early support Thursday at the Read-2-Lead Football Classic rally, featuring performances by the SJSU Marching Band and the Morgan State Magnificent Marching Machine drum line.

The rally, held at the Associated Students recreation area, also featured performances by the Spartan Dance Team and the Spartan Spectrum Dance Team. The SJSU cheerleading team and the gymnastics team entertained the crowd with some cheers before Morgan State's Magnificent Marching Machine made its way to the rally.

Morgan State, located in Baltimore, Md., includes a drum line considered one of the most famous and widely known bands in the United States. It's referred to as the Magnificent Marching Machine because it consists of 150 university students, according to Morgan State's band Web site.

Arriving 30 minutes late, Morgan State's band made its way to the A.S. recreation area.

Morgan State's band was late because of a problem with the directions,

said SJSU Marching Band Director Scott Pierson. Pierson said he was told that their bus driver dropped them off at San Fernando Street rather than San Salvador Street in front of Duncan Hall. It was unfortunate they had to walk across campus, he said.

Dressed in baggy blue jeans, Morgan State T-shirts and orange baseball caps, Morgan State's drum line members danced and struck their drums in a series of motions.

The drummers marched up and down and around in circles or in a line, constantly in motion. During one routine, they beat their sticks on their drums as they marched back and forth, swaying their heads sideways. The cymbalists, while positioned down on the grass, clapped their cymbals back and forth around.

KSJS 90.5 disc jockey and emcee Ramon Johnson introduced A.S. President Rachel Greathouse and interim President Don Kassing.

Greathouse said this rally was a way to market football and get the crowd going. The event was also part of the Spartan Pride Campaign, one of Greathouse's goals for the campus. Spartan Pride is designed to increase school spirit on campus.

A.S. Director of Legislative Affairs Mike Nguyen said the event turned



Cara Bowyer / Daily Staff

Members of the Morgan State Magnificent Marching Machine drum line perform in front of the Associated Students recreation area Thursday during the Read-2-Lead Football Classic rally.

out the way he wanted.

"There were a lot of students and it was invigorating," Nguyen said. "It gets me pumped up for the game."

Nguyen said though he wasn't on the planning board for the rally, he promoted it by word of mouth and at his A.S. voter drives.

"To see different organizations come out here like the dance team and (for) the Los Gatos High School to come to campus for a greater cause ... that's Spartan Pride," he said.

Pierson, SJSU Marching Band

see RALLY, page 4

EXPLETIVE DELETED

Players, fans both at fault in chair-throwing incident

What? Did that just happen? Are you kidding me?

All were questions that ran through my mind late Monday night as I sat in my room and turned on ESPN's "SportsCenter" only to see a white folding chair fly out of the hands of a Texas Rangers player and into the stands of Network Associates Coliseum in Oakland.

My mouth agape, I tried to figure out what could have happened, but the truth is, whatever led up to Texas reliever Frank Francisco doing what he did is irrelevant.

What is known at this time is that fans were not throwing anything onto the field, but only razzing the Rangers, as one would expect an Oakland Athletics fan to do when Rangers second baseman Alfonso Soriano just hit a home run in the top of the ninth to tie the game.

The fans were allegedly saying something to the effect of, "Who's going to lose it for you guys? Who's going to get the loss?"

After that, another Texas reliever, Doug Brocail, began to yell back at the Oakland fans, who are only separated by a three-foot wall just a few feet away down the foul line.

So, after Brocail had to be restrained by several teammates and coaches, including Francisco, the group of Rangers then began to argue with the fans.

Francisco's attorney said later he was grabbed by a fan on his left arm, his non-pitching arm, and that it could have injured him.

Again, that isn't a reason to throw a chair. That isn't even a reason to spit at the fan. But it is a reason to call security and have the fan removed.

If what the attorney said is true, then the fan broke a cardinal rule and should be banned from the stadium, but for all we know it's just speculation.

What is known is that Francisco then decided to retaliate by throwing a chair wildly into the stands. He had no target, but only a desire to hit an A's fan.

And that he did.

Jennifer Bueno, 41, is the woman who was hit square in the face with the ardent chair, now giving interviews with a considerably large bandage on her face covering her broken nose and a large bruise around her left eye.

First off, this woman is a victim of a clear crime. This is not something one could sweep under the rug as a part of sports.

Hockey players Todd Bertuzzi and Marty McSorley both have had to go to court for their acts of violence on the ice. Both acts — which I believe should have been handled by the National Hockey League and not the judicial system — could easily be swept away as "part of the game."

What happened on Monday night in Oakland was far

worse than what those two men did during their last NHL games. Francisco crossed a line that a player should never cross, and now certainly won't be able to cross back.

Francisco let his frustration go too far, and for that I would hope he is out of this game for quite awhile.

The best suggestion I have heard is that he should be suspended until 2006, incur a fine from Major League Baseball in the millions and be banned from baseball at any level until he is reinstated on the first day in 2006.

He will not face jail time, but another stiff fine from the state and several years of probation.

Enough for Francisco, and now back to Bueno.

After seeing her on television last night, I lost all respect for her and her cause.

She gave a press conference where she is quoted saying, "I feared for my life," and that was before the chair came hurling toward her.

She said that when the Rangers and fans began to fight along the fence, she was afraid that the players were going to begin killing fans.

Does anyone else realize how much this doesn't make sense? Does anyone else just smell all of the manure that will

be piled on to make sure this woman gets every penny she can out of everyone involved?

Francisco should just pay her off right away so that none of us have to be subjected to her vomit-inducing spiel about how she was so afraid, when her husband said he was one of the people who initiated the argument in the first place.

The main problem with people like Bueno is that she will not stop with suing until she has fished that river dry.

Francisco is first, and rightfully so, but then you know she will go after the Texas Rangers, then the A's, then the people who own and operate the stadium, then the security personnel. Would it really surprise anyone in this day in age if she sued Francisco's parents for raising him wrong, or his old coaches for telling him to be intense?

It has all turned into a joke.

Hopefully sometime soon she and Francisco will be in that same category of the woman who accused Kobe Bryant of rape and Ryan Leaf — and they can get lost together.



MARK CORNEJO

Mark Cornejo is the Spartan Daily sports editor. "Expletive Deleted" appears every Friday.

CREEP ON CAMPUS AIDAN CASSERLY



R.I.P JOHNNY RAMONE

John Cummings: Oct. 8, 1948- Sept. 15, 2004

SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Entries can also be e-mailed to spartandaily@cas.sjsu.edu titled "Sparta Guide." Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

School of Art

A Student galleries art exhibition will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art building. For more information, call the gallery office at 924-4330.

Career Center

A resume discussion group targeted at disabled students will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Career Center. For more information, call Jill Perez at 924-6055.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily mass will take place at 12:10 p.m. in the Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel. For more information, call Father Mike Carson at 938-1610.

SUNDAY

Ice Skating Club

A season kickoff meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Gordon Biersch. For more information, call Sandy Schaad at 650-996-8489.

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry

"Faithful Citizenship" will take place at 6 p.m. at the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry. For more

information, Sister Marcia Krause at 938-1610.

MONDAY

Academic Affairs

A student and faculty honor code forum will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Umunhum room in the Student Union. Free Pizza will be provided.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily mass will take place at 12:10 p.m. in the Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel. For more information, call Father Mike Carson at 938-1610.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library

A documentary titled "Books not Bars" will be shown from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library, room 255/257. The film focuses on the growth of the prison industrial complex. For more information, call Library General Collections at 808-2397.

Pride of the Pacific Islands

A Polynesian dance practice will take place from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Spartan Complex East, room 75. For more information, call Courtney Tarifa at 924-2221.

THE THROWBACK

Only one local baseball team to slide into the postseason

With less than three weeks remaining in the 2004 baseball season, only one of the two Bay Area teams will be playing four weeks from now.

The St. Louis Cardinals have built an insurmountable lead in the National League Central division. The same goes for the Minnesota Twins in the American League Central.

The Atlanta Braves and the New York Yankees are almost certain to advance to the postseason as well. The Los Angeles Dodgers and Boston Red Sox also each figure to qualify for the playoffs.

That leaves two spots open and, as of Wednesday afternoon, the Giants and A's currently occupy those two spots.

San Francisco is clinging to the slimmest of margins, up by half a game on the Chicago Cubs, after Wednesday's games. The Houston Astros, San Diego Padres and Florida Marlins are also in the hunt, meaning the Giants will have to outperform several teams down the stretch.

Oakland holds a two-game lead over the Anaheim Angels and a four-game lead over the Texas Rangers. The rest of the American League fell out of the postseason picture weeks ago.

That's the main reason why the A's will forge their way into the playoffs for the fifth straight season and the Giants will fall short.

The A's stay within their division the rest of the way with two series against the Angels and Seattle Mariners and one against the Rangers. The A's close the season at home against Anaheim, meaning that if the Angels still trail going into the final week, they would probably have to win at least three out of four in Oakland to get by.

Oakland pitchers Mark Mulder, Tim Hudson and Barry Zito will not let that happen.

The A's pitching is as solid as usual, and the bullpen issues that plagued the team before the trade deadline appear to have been solved.

The A's offense has exceeded expectations all year. Five different players have hit 19 or more home runs, while Erubiel Durazo, Scott Hatteberg and Mark Kotsay are among the league's top hitters.

The American League West is on the verge of becoming a two-horse race. Texas is ready to fall by the wayside — all the A's need to do is keep the Angels in the rearview and a post-season date with the Yankees or the Red Sox will be their reward.

The Giants, on the other hand, have a slew of teams on their heels.

After being picked by many to go to the World Series, the Cubs have struggled but are in the thick of the wild card hunt.

After being left for dead one month ago, the Houston Astros are on fire, being only two games behind the Giants after Wednesday's action. The Padres continue to hang around and the World Champion Marlins are still lurking.

Even if the Giants perform well down the stretch against the Padres, Astros and Dodgers, they'll have to hope that one of the other four teams doesn't get on a roll.

The two things in the Giants' favor are that they are still in front and their next three series are all at home. A successful home stand is critical to the Giants' playoff chances. Anything

less than a 6-3 record won't get the job done.

If they can pull that off, the Giants have a chance, but I just don't see it.

The Giants' pitching staff has been ridden hard all season long. The bullpen has been overworked, but at least Dustin Hermanson has proven himself as a reliable closer.

The starting five have been anchored by Cy Young Award-candidate Jason Schmidt all year long, but ever since he pulled his groin a month ago, even Schmidt has been a little shaky.

Left fielder Barry Bonds is still in a league of his own, but who else will step up down the stretch and carry this team into the playoffs? Most of the other teams in contention have several dangerous sluggers up and down the lineup.

The Cubs have Sammy Sosa, Moises Alou and Nomar Garciaparra. The Astros have Lance Berkman, Jeff Bagwell and Carlos Beltran.

The Giants have Barry Bonds and, as great as he is, alone he just won't be enough.

All that being said, the Astros will continue to stay hot and claim the National League wild card. The Red Sox will fail to catch the Yankees but will secure the American League wild card.

The A's, sadly, will probably suffer their fifth consecutive first-round playoff loss at the hands of either Boston or New York.

Before this season even began, it was all about the battle for supremacy between the Red Sox and Yankees. New York swooped in and took Alex Rodriguez after Boston failed to make a deal with Texas to get him.

Now, months later, the story remains unchanged, and these teams will meet again in the American League Championship Series.

St. Louis will defeat the winner of that series to win the World Series.

However, despite their success, the Cardinals' trio of Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen will come up empty in the hardware department. As a Giants fan, it pains me to say this, but Dodger third baseman Adrian Beltré should be named the Most Valuable Player in the National League.

Beltré realized his potential this season and has carried the Dodgers through the second half of the season, leading the league in home runs, placing third in batting average, and fourth in runs batted in.

In the American League, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz of the Red Sox make strong cases offensively, but both have severe shortcomings on defense and that should be considered. Gary Sheffield, not Alex Rodriguez, has made the difference in New York and that should earn him an MVP award, too.

Minnesota pitcher Johan Santana will steal the American League Cy Young Award from Mark Mulder. Santana leads the league in strikeouts, earned run average and is second in wins, you can't argue with that.

While the Giants' Jason Schmidt should win the National League Cy Young Award, Roger Clemens will ride the Astros' hot finish to another award.

Ian Ross is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. "The Throwback" appears every other Friday.

Letter: Aviation students need to learn at an airport

Dear editor,

Medical students need to learn medicine in a hospital, and aeronautical students need to learn about aviation at an airport.

The decision by university administrators to seek the relocation of the department of aviation to the main campus is unrealistic and is further demonstration of the lack of vision and direction within the university.

One of the program's assets is a 747 jet plane. Is that going near Tower Hall?

Airport Commissioner Catherine Tompkinson Graham did speak up for students such as did aviation students and faculty.

It was interesting that our elected student leaders were nowhere to be found during the commission meeting, although some of them, such as Mike Nguyen, boasted about how active they would be when it came to City Hall issues affecting students.

It is important that we have a well-organized department of aviation at San Jose State University.

I hardly think it is comforting to think of future students of jet aircraft construction learning about the parts of an aircraft by reading a textbook in a cramped classroom in Dudley Moorhead Hall, while the administration worries about tackling sleds.

James Rowen
Graduate Student
Urban Planning

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SPARTAN DAILY (USPS#509-480) is published every school day for (full academic year) \$40 and (semester) \$25. Periodicals postage paid at San Jose. Mail subscriptions accepted on a remainder of semester basis. Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

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Eliza Gutierrez / Daily Staff

An order of empanadas, made of beef and potatoes wrapped in corn dough, sits ready to be served as Rinconcito Colombiano Restaurant co-owner Dorian Sanclemente prepares plantains in the background. Sanclemente and husband Marcos have been chefs of the restaurant since its opening four years ago and have been the owners less than a year.

Quaint Colombian cuisine served in authentic meals

By Carly Roden
Daily Copy Editor

If you've never seen the Colombian flag, one visit to Rinconcito Colombiano Restaurant in San Jose, and its vibrant red, yellow and blue stripes will be imprinted in your mind forever.

CULTURE

From the fabrics draped across the dining room ceiling to the paintings and crafts on the walls, decorations boasting the national colors can be found throughout this "little Colombian corner." However, tucked away in a shopping center, this hidden gem is home to a cultural wonderland much bigger than its name would suggest.

One of the lobby walls is covered in old photos of Cali, a city near Colombia's Pacific Coast and the hometown of Rinconcito owners Dorian Bustos and Marco Sanclemente. The husband-and-wife team began working as chefs in the restaurant shortly after moving to the United States in 1999 and decided to buy the business just one year ago.

Aside from the infectious salsa, cumbia and bachata rhythms that flow from the speakers, it's the Rinconcito staff that sets the backdrop for your meal. The friendly servers have a strong knowledge of Colombian cuisine and are happy to answer questions or recommend a personal favorite.

avorite. Bustos and Sanclemente are equally warm, popping out of the kitchen to chat with regular customers and check on others.

In addition to various sodas and beers imported from Colombia, the restaurant offers a variety of fruit juices (\$3.45), which are prepared fresh in the store. Fruits like blueberry or guayabana (a tropical citrus fruit) are blended with sugar and water, or can be made with milk to create a creamy, smoothie-like taste.

Start your meal with one of the many delicious "antojitos" (appetizers) such as "tostones con hogao," — smashed plantains deep-fried and topped with a sauce of sautéed onions and tomatoes.

These golden treats are crispy on the outside and slightly softer in the center, and taste like a cross between a squash and a potato.

One order (\$3.25) comes with four pieces, and is just enough to take the edge off your hunger without spoiling your appetite.

The menu also features a variety of soups and stews in large (\$9.95) and small (\$4.50) portions. The "ajaco de pollo" is a creamy blend of chicken, rice, capers, avocado, corn and potatoes, and pairs well with just about any entrée. Heartier selections, such as "caldo de costilla," beef rib stew with avocado and rice, are meals on their own.

If you're feeling adventurous, try the beef tongue in salsa with rice, beans and plantains, or the liver with rice, cassava and potatoes (both

\$10.95). The house specialties also include Colombian versions of Latin American classics, such as "arroz con pollo" and tamales.

For a meal that samples the traditional Colombian flavors, try the "bandeja típica" (\$11.50), a fairly large plate that combines a little of everything. The best parts of this dish are the "chorizo," a flavorful but not-too-spicy sausage, the "arepa," a small, dense cake made from Colombian corn, and the irresistible sweet plantains, which melt in your mouth. Also included are a serving of finely shredded beef, pork rind, avocado, rice and beans. Meatless "bandeja vegetariana" (\$8.45), substituting cassava and salad, is also available.

No Rinconcito meal would be complete without a strong cup of piping hot Colombian coffee (\$1.75) and dessert. While treats like "flan," vanilla custard glazed with caramelized sugar, and rice pudding are hard to resist, challenge your palate and try one of the more unique items. "Brevas con arequipe y queso" (\$4.45) is two pieces of fig served with small slices of unsalted cheese and a heaping spoonful of thick caramel. The slightly tangy fig and milky caramel go surprisingly well together, and the cheese keeps the flavor from becoming too sweet.

Rinconcito Colombiano Restaurant is located at 2306 Almaden Rd. and is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It is closed Tuesday.

AUTHOR | 'I had to do some serious clubbing.'

continued from page 1

room only.

"This is the biggest turnout I have had for a global studies lecture," said Michael Conniff, director of the global studies institute for international and extended studies.

The talk was part of a series of global studies lectures that take place two to three times a semester, Conniff said.

This particular lecture was brought to the King Library by a collaboration between the global studies program and the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley.

"This is an opportunity for Commonwealth Club members to come hear people they usually do not hear," said Trish Newfarmer, director of the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley.

Newfarmer said members of the club are very interested in global and national security issues.

"Queen of Dreams" asks what it means to be a good American," Divakaruni said, "and whether that changes when times are bad."

The novel is set in a post-9/11 Fremont and addresses the experiences of the South Asian community, she said.

"My community was looked at as being suspicious," Divakaruni said.

She said Sikhs were particularly singled out because of their turbans and beards.

"They were victims of hate crimes," she said. "So that became an important part of my book."

Linda and Dayna Barnes, a mother and daughter from Berkeley, said they were attracted to Divakaruni's work because of the strong women figures and different female relationships she writes about.

"We have been passing around her books in our family," Dayna Barnes said.

Divakaruni said she had also done children's books and had gained status at home when she used her children's names for the characters in her book "The Conch Bearer."

"I am now the favorite parent," she said.

Divakaruni said she researches her books meticulously and had to revisit her youth because one of the charac-



Amanda Brittingham / Daily Staff

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, best-selling author of "Sister of My Heart" and "The Vine of Desire," signs books for her audience after speaking Thursday afternoon in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library.

ters was a popular disc jockey.

"I had to do some serious clubbing," said Divakaruni, a mother in her late 40s.

She said she recruited her niece, who asked her to stay in a corner and not to ask any questions.

"She tried to teach me the latest dance moves, but it did not work," she said.

Some students at the lecture said her sense of humor resonated with them.

"I know many of you have been dragged here kicking and screaming," she said.

Jennifer Rycenga, an associate professor of comparative religious studies, said she assigned the talk to her students because they were learning how to balance many cultures within their identities.

"I am hoping that the talk will inspire them to buy and read her work," she said.

Rycenga said the fact that Divakaruni started writing late in her life would expose students and women of

color to horizons open to them.

"Materials from their lives ... these are stories that need to be told," she said.

Some professors from the social science and creative arts departments had also assigned the lecture for their classes, but some students were already familiar with the author.

"I like that she has a provocative style," said Shannon Miller, a junior creative arts major. "She paints imagery really well. She unveils the characters slowly."

Miller said she has read two of the author's novels.

"I did not know a lot about the Indian culture before that," she said.

Divakaruni said that even though she writes so that she can provide South Asian immigrants with ways to explore their identities, she hoped her writing would create a bridge between communities.

"There is a lot we can do as individuals to fight prejudice," she said. "That is how we change society, one person at a time."

FRIDAY | Some people prefer classes five days a week

continued from page 1

be nice to have a three-day weekend every week."

Academic senate policy states that as of 1998, departments can switch from a Monday-Wednesday-Friday, Tuesday-Thursday schedule to a Monday-Wednesday, Tuesday-Thursday, Friday schedule. It also states that for every 10 three-unit Monday-Wednesday, Tuesday-Thursday class the department holds, it must also hold one three-unit Friday course.

"Basically, there was a study done. It came on the senate's agenda," said Kathy Rott, director of academic planning. "They asked for a lot of data at that particular time to see how things were being scheduled. There were surveys and the impression that everyone was getting was that people want to come to campus as few days as possible."

Physics professor Patrick Hamill teaches one Friday class and says that 75-minute periods twice a week is too long of a time to ask students to concentrate.

"Three classes a week for 50 minutes apiece is much better," he said. "It's stupid that this university goes to a four-day-a-week operation. It's poor pedagogy, as well as a waste of facilities, and is being done primarily by faculty who want to reduce the time spent on campus, and is based on a flawed opinion poll that was taken several years ago which concluded that students would rather go to school four days a week than five."

William D. DeVincenzi, an accounting and finance lecturer, last taught a class that met on Friday at

least three or four years ago, he said.

"The primary reason is to give students more flexibility to work and go to school at the same time," he said. "The only negative is that the university's facilities are grossly underutilized."

Academic planner Rott disagrees, saying that classroom usage is at an optimum level thanks to the aid of computers.

"In the process of adding PeopleSoft with the Fall 2003 term, we also put into place room scheduling software that optimizes the use of rooms," Rott said. "So we're getting better use of rooms than we ever have before."

"Are there rooms available on Friday? Yes, there are. But many times they are in use. Friday afternoons give the opportunity to schedule other things that otherwise wouldn't be able to be scheduled, like review sessions, fraternities and sororities sometimes use them," she said.

"I don't think you'll ever find (a schedule) that's perfect," she said. "We aren't a campus of strictly three-unit, three-hour classes. We have such a mixed bag of different types of classes that no matter what you do to write an academic policy, you wouldn't be able to fit them perfectly."

For some students, such as Beth Ashworth, a senior majoring in finance, Friday classes are a boon, as well as a convenient way to avoid crowds.

"(I took it) because it was a class I wanted to take and it fit into my schedule," said Ashworth, whose Friday finance session was offered on other days of the week, as well. "Besides, I kind of like Friday classes be-

cause there's less people here (on campus)."

Even naysayers who dislike their end-of-the-week courses can admit there are upsides to coming on Fridays.

"My classes are more separated," Fong said, "so I have more time to do homework."

Added Jafri, "Parking is great on Fridays. It's always been that way."

Freshman Jorge Barragan, majoring in mechanical engineering, starts his Fridays off at 7:30 a.m. and ends them at 4:50 p.m.

"I like it because, since I go to school, I don't have to work on Fridays (and I usually work from 3-10 p.m. during the rest of the week)," said Barragan. "If I didn't have a job, I would never want to come. Next semester I'll probably try to take Fridays off."

Lecturer DeVincenzi said he finds that twice-a-week classes give more time for academia.

"During Monday-Wednesday-Friday 50-minute classes, it is very difficult to get into discussion, class presentations. There just isn't enough time," he said. "With the Monday-Wednesday, Tuesday-Thursday 75-minute format, you can get into meaty stuff without rushing in and out. From the professor's point of view, you get a better product."

And what about the student point of view? At least for Thursday-lover Raymond Fernando, he agrees with DeVincenzi ... sort of.

"I will never, ever, ever take a Friday class," he said. "They are a pain. ... They're not in my schedule. Period."

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Spartans fall short of goal in 2-1 loss

By Kevin Yuen
Daily Staff Writer

The San Jose State University men's soccer team's record dropped to 1-4 after losing to Santa Clara University 2-1 on Thursday night at Buck Shaw Stadium in Santa Clara.

The Spartans held the game to a 1-1 tie until the Broncos scored off of a deflection by Spartan defender Chris Mackey in the 49th minute.

The Broncos struck early with a goal in the fifth minute, a header by Ryan Purtell off of a corner kick on the left side of the field.

"The first goal we kind of gave up early, and that kind of put our heads down," SJSU forward Johnny Gonzales said.

Spartan head coach Gary St. Clair said the Broncos' goal should have been a foul.

"The first goal, the guy pushed (defender Dylan Pender) in the back, hands out, right in front of everybody," St. Clair said. "The linesman, the referee didn't see it. Referees are paid to see things, at least once in a while."

St. Clair added that despite his problems with the refs, he was proud of how the team played.

"I think this is the first game all year where I thought there was atrocious refereeing and really made a negative impact on the game," St. Clair said. "Other than that, I think our players played pretty well."

St. Clair said, even though the Spartans have now fallen in three straight matches, he expects the team to go on as usual.

"It nerves on you, losing three games in a row like this," St. Clair said, "even though they are three nationally ranked teams. We'll just have to go back to work tomorrow."

Gonzales answered back for the Spartans with a score on a pass from Mackey into an empty net in the 17th minute after the goalkeeper was drawn out of his box.

"I got behind the defense and the goalie and put it through his legs. I saw the goal open and hit it with my left foot into the right corner," Gonzales said. "That kind of put us back in the game."

After halftime, Santa Clara scored the game winner five minutes into the second half off a deflection from Mackey's leg from the right side of the field.

"I think we were in there the first half for the most part. In the second half the ball didn't go our way," forward Tim McKinney said. "A deflection, you can't do anything about that."

Pender said the Spartans did not have as much control of the game in the second half as they had



Tomomi Tsuda / Daily Staff

Spartan midfielder Frank Mata (20) slide tackles Santa Clara midfielder Keith DeVey (13) during the Broncos' 2-1 victory Thursday night at Buck Shaw Stadium.

in the first.

"It's bull," Pender said. "We dominated the first half, came out in the second half too lackadaisical and couldn't possess the ball like we did in the first half — didn't get the same opportunities."

Gonzales said the Spartans should fare well once conference play begins if they can repeat the kind of effort they put forth against one of the best teams in the nation.

"I thought it was a good game — we played very well," Gonzales said. "They're the No. 3 team in the nation, but it sure didn't look like it. I think we picked up the ball real well, better than the past two games, and if we keep it up, I think we'll do well in conference play."

SJSU will next take on the University of San Francisco at 5 p.m. on Saturday at Buck Shaw Stadium.

A's avoid Texas sweep

Associated Press

OAKLAND — Rich Harden and Bobby Crosby hadn't even started high school the last time Kenny Rogers lost at the Coliseum.

The Athletics' youngest regulars were the biggest contributors to Oakland's 5-4 victory over the Texas Rangers on Thursday, with Harden pitching into the seventh inning and Crosby hitting a three-run double.

Neither Rogers nor the A's cared much about the left-hander's streak of 18 victories and 35 appearances in Oakland without a loss stretching back to Aug. 7, 1994. The play-off race is a bigger concern for both teams — and with a much-needed win, the A's maintained their slim AL West lead.

"You try to put it aside, but it's always in the back of your mind," said Harden, who had seven strikeouts while becoming Oakland's fifth 10-game winner. "It's coming down to the last few series here, and everything is magnified."

Crosby, who was 14 when Rogers last lost in Oakland, provided a clutch fifth-inning hit that allowed the Athletics to salvage a split of the four-game set. He and Harden (10-6) were teammates at Triple-A Sacramento last summer, but they're thriving in a major league race this fall.

"It's incredible for a rookie to be in this type of situation," Crosby said. "I'm not even thinking about it. I'm just taking it like it's the middle of the season, a regular old (at-bat)."

Crosby was unaware of Rogers' decade of dominance at the Coliseum.

"Sometimes it's better not to be aware of that stuff," he said with a grin. "That can put bad thoughts in your mind."

The Rangers had several disappointments in the finale of the four-game set. In addition to the end of Rogers' streak and a wasted chance to move within three games of the division lead, Texas might have lost Alfonso Soriano with an injury to his left leg.

Soriano was hurt in an awkward headfirst slide while stealing third base in the eighth inning. His left foot got caught under his right leg, and he left the game after consulting with trainers. He'll undergo tests Friday.

"It doesn't look very good," manager Buck Showalter said. "But we won't comment until the MRI."

The series began Monday night with an ugly confrontation between the Rangers' relievers and a heckling fan. Texas reliever Frank Francisco threw a chair into the stands, breaking a woman's nose.

There was no ruling from the commissioner's office Thursday on a suspension for Francisco. But a penalty is likely to be imposed Friday — possibly about 10 games.

Doug Brocail, the other Rangers reliever prominently involved in the fracas, got loud boos when he took the mound in the fifth. But there was no visible trouble in the sun-baked crowd.

Harden allowed six hits while improving to 7-1 since the All-Star break — and more importantly, sending the A's on a nine-game road trip against their three division rivals on a good note.

"You can't say it's a must-win, but it's as close as you could get to it," A's manager Ken Macha said. "It's going to make Texas play a little tougher. We're going to feel good about ourselves on the plane ride up (to Seattle)."

The A's had lost seven of 10 entering the finale of their 10-game homestand, and Texas built a 4-1 lead entering the fifth before Crosby cleared the bases with two outs on Rogers' 103rd pitch.

Rogers (16-8) allowed nine hits and five runs in his shortest start since Aug. 8. The All-Star is 1-3 over his last six starts.

"I had a 4-1 lead, and I let it get away from me," Rogers said.

When asked about his incredible Oakland streak, Rogers shrugged and said: "I guess I just have to start again."

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Music

Meiji University Mandolin Concert will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday in the Music building Concert Hall at San Jose State University. Admission is free. For more information, call (408) 924-2900.

Rock Against Bush featuring Anti-Flag, Midtown, The Nightwatchman, Strike Anywhere, Epoxies and Mike Park will take place at 7 p.m. on Sept. 21 at The Fillmore in San Francisco. Tickets are \$15 and available through Ticketmaster by calling (408) 998-TIXS.

New York Dolls will perform at 8 p.m. on Oct. 3 at The Fillmore in San Francisco. Tickets are \$25 and are available through Ticketmaster by calling (408) 998-TIXS.

Performing Arts

The White Murder Case will continue its run until Sept. 26 at the Lucie Stern Theater in Palo Alto. Tickets range from \$18 to \$29 and are available by calling (650) 329-0891.

One Hundred Years of Political Theatre, a festival of short plays, will continue its run until Sept. 26 at the Eastenders Repertory Company in Oakland. Tickets range from \$10 to \$20 and are available by calling (510) 568-4118.

The Black Rider: The Casting of Magical Bullets will continue its run until Oct. 3 at the Geary Theater in San Francisco. Tickets range from \$20 to \$80 and are available by calling (415) 749-2228.

Heretics, Harlots and Heroes will be performed by the Magical Acts Ritual Theater on Oct. 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23 at Belladonna in Berkeley. Ticket prices range from \$16 to \$26. For more information, call (510) 540-9105.

Art

Art Car Fest will take place from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Museum Plaza of the San Jose Museum of Art. Admission is free. For more information, call (408) 271-6840.

Art of Zines 04 will continue its run until Oct. 31 at the San Jose Museum of Art. Admission is free. For more information, call (408) 271-6840.

Comedy

Lewis Black will perform tonight and Sunday at the Improv in downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$23 and \$27 and are available by calling (408) 280-7475.

Film

Cinemayaat, also known as the Arab Film Festival, will take place Oct. 5 through 8 at Camera 12 Cinemas in San Jose. For more information, call (415) 564-1100.

Misc.

The Oblone College Super Flea Market will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 9 at Oblone College in Fremont. Admission is free. For more information, call (510) 659-6285.

'Sky Captain' pilots to victory

By Ling-Mei Wong
Daily Staff Writer

You don't need to be a science fiction fan to enjoy "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

REVIEW

It's 1939, and the world has been taken over by an army of flying, attacking and towering robots.

The robots go stomping all over the world, taking resources like New York City's generators. All who stand in their way are subjected to their heat-ray glare.

Their leader is a mysterious Totenkopf, who is bent on destroying the world.

Defying incredible odds, Sky Captain saves the day.

Sound familiar?

This is a retro sci-fi movie that was enjoyable, but may not be for everyone.

For one, the entire movie is shot against blue screen, with a few props for the actors to hold, such as bottles.

"There's a love triangle, the world ending and a hero to save the day."

The trailers make the film look like a big-budget movie with slick computer graphics and no plot.

For the most part, the World of Tomorrow was not obviously fake.

When Sky Captain, played by Jude Law, takes on the digitally rendered robots by weaving perilously between them in his plane, the effect is believably stunning.

"Sky Captain" does have a plot. While it seems to be infatuated with comic book references and classic movies, it has solid elements that form the movie.

There's a love triangle, the world ending and a hero to save the day. It's implausible, but the movie is a fun suspension of belief.

The lighting is deliberately classic. When reporter Polly Perkins, played by Gwyneth Paltrow, stands in a crowd, she's radiant while the other people in the crowd are in the shadows.

Sky Captain and Polly join forces to find Totenkopf.



Photos courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Above: Jude Law, left, and Gwyneth Paltrow star in "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

Below: A plane takes off to avoid explosions in a hanger.

Along the way, Sky Captain calls upon old flame Frank Cook, played by Angelina Jolie, and her Amphibious Squadron.

The wonders of blue screen make the Amphibious Squadron fantastic to see.

The shots of the Squadron are breathtaking. Their airplane landing strip floats in mid-air, above the clouds. When their planes hit the ocean, it looks like they're crashing, while they're actually turning into submarines.

Besides having impressive special effects, the acting also brings the movie to life.

Director Kerry Conran expected unknown actors to star in his first movie.

Instead, after showing a six-minute short to producer Jon Avnet, Avnet was able to enlist the Oscar-winning talents of Jolie and Paltrow.

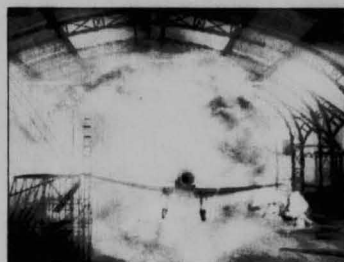
The six-minute short showed the beginning sequence of the movie, which has a blimp landing on the Empire State Building.

Each of the principal actors were shown the short and then signed on to act.

They understood that they would be shooting in front of a blue screen and looked completely natural interacting with thin air.

Paltrow's comedic timing was surprising. She has humorous scenes where her clumsiness brings unexpected consequences.

Her ability to use physical humor isn't obvious from Paltrow's previous works, such as "Shakespeare in Love." Paltrow's comedic performance was a good foil to Law's more



aloof and larger-than-life character as Sky Captain.

The movie looked believable. The costumes, background and speech were distinctly of the 1930s.

The optimism about the future was true to the period, before World War II and the Great Depression. The belief that technology could overcome any problem was prevalent, which is reflected in the fantastic toys brought to life in the movie.

While the movie lags in the middle, with the interminable search for Totenkopf going too long, the movie makes up for it with a funny ending.

Overall, the film is worth watching for beautiful special effects and excellent acting.

"Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" is currently in theaters.

Drink of the Week

By Claire Taylor
Daily Copy Editor

For coffee drinkers seeking a creamy alternative to the watery standard, the Chocolate Coffee Cream (\$4.25) from Great Bear Coffee in Los Gatos might just be the perfect caffeinated beverage.

REVIEW

Commonly referred to as the CCC by staff and regulars, this drink is the perfect blend of Ghirardelli ground chocolate, vanilla ice cream and Great Bear's special "Bear Cap," a blend of condensed coffee and low-fat milk, with an optional dollop of whipped cream. A variation called the "gritty" CCC (\$5) is also available with the addition of poppy seed-shaped flecks of espresso beans.

The 16-ounce CCC is a wonderful way to kill two birds with one stone — satisfy both a caffeine craving and a sweet tooth.

Unlike its major rival, the icy Starbucks Frappuccino, the CCC is not only more flavorful, but thicker

and creamier. Store director and coffee roaster Jeff Dube said the drink is the "Frappuccino for everyone who isn't near a Starbucks," because many people come into the coffeehouse looking for the trademark drink.

Owner Sue Ann Van Epps, who describes the drink as a "genius coffee milkshake," said the CCC was created by her former business partner 13 years ago, and said the coffeehouse serves between 50 and 100 CCCs every day.

On any given weekday, most of the CCCs made are sold after the nearby



Robert Sparling / Daily Staff

The "gritty" Chocolate Coffee Cream is a frosty treat of vanilla ice cream, ground chocolate and condensed coffee with low-fat milk.

Los Gatos High School lets out, store director Brianna Donahue said.

Donahue said the "Bear Cap," which is similar to an iced cappuccino with a toddy (cold coffee) is also often ordered. Also popular is their iced coffee drink, which she said is brewed cold as opposed to how many other coffeehouses typically brew the drink hot and then put it on ice.

Great Bear Coffee is approximately 15 minutes from campus, located at 19 N. Santa Cruz Ave. in Los Gatos. It is open Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Saturday from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

'Hearts' provides timely Vietnam War critique

Film remembers conflict's lessons

By Mansur Mirovalev
Daily Senior Staff Writer

Vietnam would be very pretty if it wasn't for its people, a former prisoner of war tells wide-eyed children in a Catholic school. B-52s rattle bombs on villages and spray jungle with a lethal chemical mist. A U.S. soldier shoots a Vietnamese teenager in the head, and President Lyndon B. Johnson utters that the ultimate victory depends on hearts and minds of the people.

REVIEW

"Hearts and Minds," a 1975 Oscar-winning documentary about the Vietnam War, has been restored and will be rereleased by the Academy Film Archive on Sept. 24. Digital technologies helped spruce up the faded original, and now another generation of

usually showed them as either servile allies from the South or corrupt and cowardly guerillas from the North, movie critic Robert K. Brigham wrote.

A former French foreign minister confesses that the United States offered him two atomic bombs to solve the problems in Indochina. An elderly undertaker from South Vietnam explains that the smaller coffins are for little children, while U.S. Gen. William Westmoreland concludes, "the Oriental does not put the same high price on life as does the Westerner." A farmer who lost his 9-year-old daughter shouts, "Nixon murderer!" — this episode was echoed in "Fahrenheit 9/11."

In many ways, the history of "Hearts and Minds" preceded the controversy and success of Michael Moore's film. Interviews and footage for "Hearts and Minds" were collected in 1972 and 1973 in Vietnam, the United States and Paris, according to movie critic Judith Crist.

Acclaimed at the Cannes Film Festival in May 1974, the film caused furor and controversy at the height of the debate over the involvement of the United States in Vietnam. The American release was delayed by threats of lawsuits and a change of distributor, and the American public saw the film only in March 1975.

Davis' use of shocking counterpoint, several resurfacing story lines and quick cuts spiced up by quotes from Hollywood movies and popular tunes was repeated by Moore. Davis does not stick to strict chronology, and instead uses seemingly disjointed episodes that recreate the background of the war, its roots and its impact on America.

"The first casualty of war is truth, the last is memory," Davis wrote in the liner notes to the rerelease of "Hearts and Minds." Don't miss the digital comeback of the film that proves it wrong.

"Hearts and Minds" will hit movie theaters on Sept. 24.

"Thirty years ago, director Peter Davis flared up controversy with two hours of condensed stock footage, news reports and interviews with politicians, Vietnamese civilians ... and soldiers themselves."

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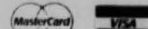
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